



March 17, 2026

On behalf of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities and the Connecticut Center For Assisted Living (CAHCF/CCAL), a trade association of skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities, my name is Matthew Barrett, the association's President and CEO. Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in opposition to S.B. No. 495 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING LONG-TERM CARE.

Subsection (c) improperly adds persons and organizations who are external to the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch of Connecticut State Government as members of the Long-Term Care Planning Committee, when it is more appropriate that their participation in developing Connecticut's long term services and supports plan should remain as members of the Long Term Care Advisory Committee established under Section 17b-388 of the general statutes. Specifically, the bill would add as members to the planning committee who are now members of the statutory advisory committee, namely the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, a representative of an employee organization resenting long-term care workers, and a representative of an organization representing retirees, appointed by the proposed legislative committee chairpersons.

As background, the Long Term Planning Committee was a 1996 recommendation of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee (PRI) after a comprehensive study, which among other things, found considerable executive branch fragmentation in the increasing important and expanding long term care planning, policy development and implementation activities among various state agencies. It is noteworthy that the PRI Committee did not envision legislative committee members initially as their recommendation to establish in law the planning committee as it was PRI's vision that the new committee was badly-needed to better coordinate long term care fragmented planning in the executive branch. However, the chairs and ranking members of the various committees of cognizance were included in 1998 enabling legislation. Still, given a major underlying charge of the new committee was, and continues to be, to plan and coordinate executive branch activities, it reasonably followed that a representative of the Office of Policy and Management was initially elected chair from among the committee members and today a representative from OPM continues to chair the committee.

It would be a reversal of the original purpose of the committee to statutorily establish the chairs from the legislative committees of cognizance only and we would recommend against that---noting, a legislator could be elected chair under the enabling legislation, but it remains in our view, more desirable that an executive branch member chair the committee insofar as considerable coordination among the various state agencies involved in long term care remains a major charge of the committee.

Moreover, to advise the Planning Committee, the framers of the new planning committee also created the Long-Term Care Advisory Council in 1998, which included the then legislative Commission on Aging and the Long-Term Care

Ombudsman's Office and various long-term care industry, labor, and elderly services interest groups. Notably, today there are some twenty-five statutory members of the advisory committee, including those proposed in this bill to also be members of the planning committee, such as the long term care ombudsman, the state president of AARP, and one representative of a bargaining unit for health care employees, appointed by the president of the bargaining unit.

Under the direction of the Planning Committee since 1998, with considerable input from the Advisory Committee, there has been remarkable progress in transforming our state's system of long term services and supports to one that is rebalanced in favor of spending and services delivered to individuals in community based settings as we have preserved the importance and value of providers delivering care in institutional settings.

For these reasons, we recommend no action on the bill.

For additional information on this testimony, please contact Matthew Barrett, President and CEO of CAHCF/CCAL, at mbarrett@cahcf.org.